

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A hybrid polymerase having polymerase activity, wherein the polymerase comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~SEQ ID NO:23~~ and is at least 85% identical over 700 contiguous amino acids of the *Pyrococcus furiosus* (*Pfu*) polymerase sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 with the *proviso* that

~~the hybrid polymerase sequence comprises at least one hybrid position that is mutated from the native *Pfu* residue to the residue that occurs at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO:25, wherein the hybrid position is one of the residues designated as "X" in SEQ ID NO:26.~~

2-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The hybrid polymerase of claim 8 1, wherein the polymerase is fused to a sequence-nonspecific double-stranded DNA binding domain is selected from the group consisting of Sso7d, Sac7d, and Sac7e.

10. (original) The hybrid polymerase of claim 9, wherein the DNA binding domain is Sso7d.

11-24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide comprises ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence of ~~at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein~~ the polypeptide has polymerase activity.

26-27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 25 ~~27~~, wherein the polypeptide is fused to a sequence-nonspecific double-stranded DNA binding domain is selected from the group consisting of Sso7d, Sac7d, or Sac7e.

29. (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim ~~29~~ 28, wherein the DNA binding domain is Sso7d.

31. (cancelled)

32. (withdrawn) A method of amplifying a target sequence using a hybrid polymerase, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a polymerase according to claim 1 or claim 25,  
combining the polymerase in an amplification reaction mixture, and  
amplifying the target sequence.